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PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Addendum

Catholic International Union for Social Service

[Original: French]
14 October 1964

It seems to us that for 1968, the "International Year for Human Rights",

1. Arrangements should be made for the Covenants giving effect to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be put to the vote so that they may be adopted by as many Governments as possible. The General Assembly should therefore expedite the voting on the Covenants.

2. It might perhaps be necessary to provide for the establishment of a special United Nations organ, which might be designated the High Commission on Human Rights.

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# PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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PART I

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CAMEROON

[Original: French]
29 October 1964

With regard to resolution 1961 (XVIII), the Cameroonian Government has no objections or proposals to make concerning the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights.

The Federal Republic of Cameroon wishes to add that, before 1968, it will ratify the conventions mentioned in the General Assembly resolution.

CEYLON

[Original: English]
15 October 1964

The proposals contained therein [in the Working Paper ST/SG/AC.5/3] for the celebration of the twentieth Anniversary of the Declaration are most welcome and have our fullest support. The Government of Ceylon assures its co-operation and support by intensifying its efforts in the field of human rights in order that a fuller realization of these rights and freedoms might be reported at the review of such achievements in 1968.

TURKEY

[Original: English]
26 October 1964

It would be appropriate that participation in the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights be limited to States Members of the United Nations and of the Specialized Agencies.

With regard to the suggestions put forward by the members of the Bureau in paragraph 14 of the working paper, the Turkish Government proposes the addition to paragraph 14 of the "right to a nationality", embodied in Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Conventions of "the nationality of married women" and "the reduction of statelessness" which constitute recent achievements of the United Nations in this field demonstrate also the important nature of the subject as well as the concern felt by the Organization and the Member States. In parallel with the activities of the United Nations, the Turkish Government has, some time ago, enacted a new citizenship law which reflects a modern view on the acquisition and loss of nationality by preventing on the one hand the occurrence of new cases of statelessness while on the other contributing to the decrease in the number of stateless women throughout the world.

The Turkish Government feels that item (e) in paragraph 24 which calls upon the Governments "to consider the proclamation of the International Year for Human Rights as a year of amnesty and other measures of clemency to political and other prisoners" should be deleted from the text since the realization of such measures will largely depend on the political conditions in Member States in 1968, which is impossible to predict from now. Furthermore, the proclamation of amnesty to political and other prisoners can be affected through appropriate legislation, the enactment of which will depend on the existence of favourable political conditions in each country. On the other hand, it would seem desirable not to create an impression that political and other prisoners will stand to benefit from a general amnesty on the occasion of the United Nations Year for Human Rights.

/...

As for the participation of the Non-Governmental Organizations in the work of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights as well as in the celebrations in 1968, it should be useful to bear in mind that although Non-Governmental Organizations maintain a close contact with the public in their respective countries, the nature and the scope of their activities are necessarily limited, whereas the Committee is entrusted with the task of considering all the rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Turkish Government is agreeable to the programme of measures and activities mentioned in paragraph 26 of the Working Paper which relates to the proposed activities of the Non-Governmental Organizations. Nevertheless, in view of the divergence of the legislations and practices of various Member States, it would be more appropriate to recognize greater discretionary authority to Government organs regarding the course of action to be followed by various Non-Governmental Organizations, since these Organizations have to observe the relevant laws of their own countries in carrying out the tasks under this programme. It may so happen that some of the measures mentioned in paragraph 26 of the Working Paper regarding the programmes to be implemented by the Non-Governmental Organizations fall within the jurisdiction of the State and therefore can exclusively be carried out by Governmental authorities.

The Turkish Government would have no objection to the convening of a special international conference on human rights in 1968 and concurs in the opinion expressed in paragraph 32 of the Working Paper that it should be so timed as to avoid conflict with the regular session of the General Assembly. The Turkish Government would be in favour of the Conference to be convened at the European Office of the United Nations at Geneva after the conclusion of the regular session of the General Assembly...

PART II

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

[Original: French]
29 October 1964

Nouvelles Equipes Internationales attaches great importance to the world-wide application of the principles of human rights. For that reason, it welcomes the General Assembly's decision to designate the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights.

Nouvelles Equipes Internationales is in favour of holding an international conference in 1968 to deal, in particular, with the problems connected with the study of the progress achieved, to evaluate the effectiveness of the techniques hitherto employed and to prepare a programme of future action to promote respect for human rights.

Nouvelles Equipes Internationales is of the opinion that, as 1968 has been designated as International Year for Human Rights, the preparation of:

the Covenant on Human Rights,

the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination,

the draft principles on freedom and non-discrimination in the matter of religious rights and practices,

the draft principles on freedom and non-discrimination in the matter of political rights,

the draft principle relating to the right of everyone to leave any country including his own and to return to his country,

the draft relating to the right according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile

should be completed before 1968 and the proposed international instruments on these subjects submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations for final adoption. Nouvelles Equipes Internationales feels that if this goal is to be achieved, the work of the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commissions must be speeded up and extended, for which adequate budgetary appropriations must be forthcoming.

/...

Nouvelles Equipes Internationales suggests that a very detailed questionnaire regarding de jure and de facto implementation of every paragraph of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be sent to all Member States and that the replies replies to this special questionnaire should be circulated to all interested parties, including the non-governmental organizations, long before 1968 so that they may ask for any clarification they may require.

Nouvelles Equipes Internationales is convinced that progress can be achieved in the field of human rights, not by propaganda in favour of human rights among peoples who are already interested in strict respect for those rights, but by taking international action against Governments which violate the fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

/...

OPEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL

(for the Economic Emancipation of the Woman Worker)

[Original: French]
27 October 1964

We were extremely interested to hear that the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights was considering the possibility of holding an international conference in 1968 to review progress achieved, evaluate methods and techniques, and draw up and prepare a programme of further action.

Our organization considers that the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of sex is a fundamental principle of human rights and that the objectives to be achieved by the United Nations by the end of 1968 should include the full and effective implementation of articles 23 and 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which establish the principle of equal rights, equal opportunities and equal pay for both sexes.

Because of the slowness with which the principles of the Declaration are being recognized and applied to women, particularly in the field of employment, we consider that priority should be given to strengthening the determination and intensifying the efforts to achieve this objective being made by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and Member States.

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# PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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PART I

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]
10 November 1964

The programme for the preparation and celebration of International Human Rights Year should, first and foremost, reflect the essential tasks confronting the United Nations in the field of human rights.

In view of the fact that flagrant violations of human rights are still taking place, the United Nations should undertake effective action to help to safeguard the most important political, civic, economic and social rights of working people.

It is necessary to ensure the prompt implementation of the decisions concerning the final liquidation of colonialism and racialism enshrined in the historic United Nations Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples and on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. The struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid is the most important problem confronting the United Nations. The solution of this problem is vital not only to the protection of human rights and freedoms, but also to the cause of strengthening international peace and consolidating friendly relations among peoples and States.

More than fifteen years ago, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaiming a number of basic human rights and freedoms. But that is not enough. It is important that the principles relating to the protection of human rights should not merely be declared, but should be made obligations of States under international law. This would be facilitated if States were to implement the existing international conventions against genocide, discrimination in the field of education, etc., and also if new international conventions for the protection of basic human rights - such as the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the draft International Convenant on Human Rights - were to be drawn up by the United Nations.

PART II

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

[Original: English]
2 November 1964

An International Conference in 1968 for celebrating Human Rights Year is a good suggestion.

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# PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## Observations received from Governments

## Memorandum by the Secretary-General

## Addendum

## UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]
20 October 1964

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic welcomed the idea of designating 1968 as International Year for Human Rights, believing that this would afford an opportunity for further efforts to promote greater respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and would assist in liquidating and eliminating the violations of rights and freedoms which are still taking place in some parts of the world, and also the causes of such violations.

The Government of the Ukrainian SSR believes that the measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights in 1968 should take the form of an effective solution of the problem of encouraging and promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Attention should be concentrated on the practical implementation of human rights and freedoms, rather than on formal commemorative activities in connexion with the International Year.

The Government of the Ukrainian SSR wishes to stress the need to extend United Nations activity in the preparation and celebration of the International

Year for Human Rights to all countries of the world without exception, since the problem of conceding and guaranteeing human rights and freedoms concerns all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the country or continent in which they live. Indeed, the meaning and significance of the International Year for Human Rights depend on the triumph of human rights throughout the world.

International efforts in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights should, in the opinion of the Government of the Ukrainian SSR, be concentrated on the following matters:

I. Consideration should be given to the question of wider participation by Member and non-member States of the United Nations in the multilateral treaties, conventions and agreements which have already been adopted. For this purpose all States should be called upon to ratify or accede to important conventions such as the following:

(a) The Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery;

(b) The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

(c) The Convention on the Political Rights of Women;

(d) The ILO Convention concerning forced or compulsory labour;

(e) The ILO Convention on discrimination in respect of employment and occupation;

(f) The UNESCO Convention against discrimination in education;

(g) The ILO Convention concerning equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value.

II. The drafting of the following conventions should be speeded up so that they may be opened for signature and ratification by 1968:

(a) The draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(b) The draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(c) The draft Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

(d) The draft Convention on Freedom of Information.

/...

III. The consideration and preparation of a draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination in the field of political rights, and of a draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women, should be completed by 1968.

IV. The abolition of the ignominious colonial system in all its forms should be secured as soon as possible, through implementation of the vital right of peoples to self-determination.

V. All possible measures should be taken in order to abolish as soon as possible apartheid and segregation, which represent the most monstrous forms of racial discrimination.

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# PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## Observations received from non-governmental organizations

## Memorandum by the Secretary-General

## Addendum

## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS

[Original: English]
13 December 1964

Our Federation is very much interested in the plans for the observance of 1968 as International Human Rights Year ...

We have no specific proposals or suggestions for the programme at present, but will await with much interest the plans which the Special Committee is making ...

WORLD FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS

[Original: English]
16 December 1964

As regards a programme of activities during the year 1968, the many suggestions included in part 1 of document ST/SG/AC.5/3 were found invaluable, but it is respectfully submitted that the suggestion made by the delegate of the Netherlands of a concentration of effort during some part of this year be given utmost consideration, so that the effect of the designated year would have the greatest impact possible.

In terms of evaluating the effectiveness of techniques already used for the promotion of human rights we would hope that the greatest consideration would be given to the suggestion in paragraph 17 of document ST/SG/AC.5/3 of provision for effective implementation of fundamental rights and freedoms by a complaint procedure "to which every natural person, every duly constituted group of individuals and every recognized non-governmental organization could bring their complaints of violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

An international conference in 1968 could, in our view, serve to dramatize to the world the International Year and at the same time, given proper preparation, could indicate progress made and wherein lie the greatest needs for future effort on the part of the Member States and peoples of the United Nations.

In looking to the intensification of national efforts in the field of human rights during the period up to 1968, the suggestion made by the delegates of the Philippines and Nigeria for the preparation of a syllabus on human rights for use in schools appeared to be excellent, as also the further recommendation that the United Nations Training and Research Institute might be responsible for its preparation.

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# PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## Observations received from Governments

## Memorandum by the Secretary-General

## Addendum

## BYELORUSSIAN SSR

[Original: Russian]
14 January 1965

In its activities in the field of international relations, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic follows unswervingly the principles of peace, equal rights, self-determination of peoples, and respect for the independence and sovereignty of all countries. Governed by these principles, and bearing in mind the determination of the United Nations, as stated in its Charter, "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small", the Byelorussian SSR approves the proposal to designate 1968, the twentieth anniversary of the General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as International Year for Human Rights. That is why the Byelorussian delegation at the General Assembly's eighteenth session voted in favour of resolution 1961 (XVIII), "Designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights".

The Byelorussian SSR considers that United Nations activities in connexion with the preparation and observance of the International Year for Human Rights should not be confined to the organization of formal ceremonies or festivities in

celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This anniversary will have real significance only if between now and 1968 the United Nations puts forth efforts and takes measures to bring about the practical application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments designed to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Universal Declaration and other international instruments adopted by the United Nations, such as the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) and the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 1904 (XVIII)), have laid a good basis for further action to ensure full respect for all human rights throughout the world. Only full application of these historic documents by all States, not in word but in deed, will give grounds for celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The main purpose of the International Year for Human Rights must therefore be the taking of measures to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the United Nations Charter. In this connexion particular attention should be given to measures to eliminate glaring violations of human rights, such as racial discrimination and its worst manifestation, the policy of apartheid, and all manifestations of colonialism and neo-colonialism, fascism, neo-fascism and militarism. So far as the elimination of colonialism is concerned, the principle should be that colonialism must be eliminated, not by 1968, but immediately, as required by General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

It is also necessary to make further efforts to ensure that working people enjoy their economic and social rights in all countries where those rights are still not properly guaranteed.

The United Nations must help to bring about the genuine elimination of inequality between persons on grounds of race, sex, colour, nationality, language or religious conviction, such as still exists in many parts of the world, and to create favourable conditions for respect for human rights in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

To this end it is desirable that by 1968 all States Members of the United Nations should ratify the conventions already concluded in the field of human rights,

such as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, the ILO Convention concerning forced or compulsory labour, the ILO Convention on discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, the ILO Convention concerning equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value, and the UNESCO Convention against discrimination in education. The drafting of the following conventions should also be completed by 1968: the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the draft Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the draft Convention on Freedom of Information. The United Nations should also complete consideration and preparation of the draft Declaration on the elimination of discrimination in the matter of political rights and the draft Declaration on the elimination of discrimination in relation to women.

These proposals, of course, do not exclude the taking of other measures to safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms, to the end that International Year for Human Rights may be a year of real progress in the field of human rights.

The Byelorussian SSR reserves the right to make further observations and to submit proposals on this matter in the United Nations General Assembly.

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# PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Observations received from Governments

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Addendum

## NEW ZEALAND

[Original: English]
26 January 1965

The New Zealand Government has given careful consideration both to document ST/SG/AC.5/3 and to the summary records of the first round of discussions in the Committee on the International Year. These documents are a valuable guide to individual countries planning their own participation in the International Year. New Zealand is prepared to support and to undertake practical measures which are designed to achieve improvement in the recognition of human rights, and a wider understanding of their importance.

The New Zealand Government believes that all Governments should be encouraged to participate in programmes concerning the International Year, but that it should be left to the discretion of individual Governments to decide what observances would be most appropriate for them and how they ought to be carried out. Steps which may be appropriate or desirable in one country will undoubtedly not be applicable in another. Moreover, differences of emphasis in the recognition of human rights throughout the world result in different priorities in the various countries. For this reason it would not be advisable to make a choice of subjects

to be given priority during 1968, and it is considered that the list contained in the working paper is not exhaustive enough. No rights should be especially singled out at the expense of others which are equally important.

New Zealand would wish to have more details of the financial implications and objectives of such an international Conference as the one proposed, before making any comments upon its value. Special regional seminars within the framework of the Advisory Services Programme seem at this stage more likely to achieve the desired aims.

New Zealand has long held the view, expressed by the Committee in its paper, that invidious distinctions in the matter of human rights are better dealt with through education and persuasive example than through enforcement by legislation. The New Zealand Government therefore considers that the widest possible distribution of information material on human rights ought to be arranged for the years preceding the International Year. It is further of the view that the programme finally decided by the Committee should concentrate on effective educational measures designed to remove prejudice and discrimination, as well as provide for the examination of existing and the introduction of new legislation.

Furthermore the New Zealand Government is of the opinion that full and careful consideration should continue to be given, as it has been in the past, to important international instruments which may suffer from being hastily drawn up or accepted without due examination.

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PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Observations Received from Governments

CAMBODIA

[Original: French]
23 April 1965

The Royal Government of Cambodia agrees that the year 1968 should be designated International Year for Human Rights.

The Royal Government will spare no effort to contribute to the full success of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in conformity with the programme of activities proposed by the Bureau of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights.

The flowering of the human personality, in the spirit of the Universal Declaration, is indeed the constant objective of the Sangkum Reastr Niyum Governments, of which His Royal Highness Prince NORODOM SIHANOUK is President.

In this spirit, moreover, the Royal Government notes with great disappointment the absence of any international machinery which could effectively ensure respect for the rights of ethnic minorities which are the innocent victims of the policy of genocide and the arbitrary acts of certain Governments. The Royal Government hopes that the United Nations, in obedience to the humanitarian principles which it has never ceased to pursue, will set up such machinery, which is essential to implementation of the provisions set forth in the covenants on human rights.

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# PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## Observations received from Governments

## UPPER VOLTA

[Original: French]
29 April 1965

Pursuant to resolution 6 (XX) of the Commission on Human Rights, dated 14 March 1964, and as part of the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken, the Council of Ministers of Upper Volta has decided to appoint a National Committee to study ways and means for the celebration in 1968 of the twentieth (20th) anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

This Committee, attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, includes representatives of the Ministerial Departments of Justice; Information and Tourism; Education; Youth and Sports; Post Offices and Telecommunications; and Finances.

With a view to the celebration of this anniversary, the Committee has been assigned the task of co-ordinating the activities of the respective Ministries, such as:

- The issue of postage stamps in honour of human rights;
- Publication of the text of the Declaration in vernacular languages;
- The organization in educational institutions of special meetings and discussions devoted to human rights;
- Lectures on the same topic organized by the National Committee, the National Commission for UNESCO and the youth organizations;

- Reading of the text of the Declaration over radio and television;
- Reproduction and distribution during 1968 of the United Nations poster concerning the Declaration and of other United Nations posters concerned with human rights.

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